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IN THE CLAIMS:

The presently pending claims are as follows:

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

10. (previously amended) A cover for the aerobic treatment of biodegradable material, which comprises a laminate of
- a) a porous polymeric layer comprising porous polytetrafluorethylene adhered to
 - b) at least one woven, non-woven or knit fabric, in which the laminate has
 - i) an air permeability of between 10 and 100 m³/m²/hour at 200 Pa pressure difference,
 - ii) a water entry pressure greater than 20 kPa,
 - iii) an Ret less than 15 m²Pa/W;
- and in which the porous polymeric layer has an average pore size of between 0.2 and 10 μ m.
11. (previously amended) The cover of claim 10 wherein the laminate has a tensile strength greater than 1000 N/5 cm.
12. (original) The cover of claim 11 wherein the fabric comprises a polyester, polyacrylate, polypropylene or a fluoropolymer.
13. (cancelled)
14. (cancelled)
15. (original) The cover of claim 10 wherein the air permeability is between 15 and 50 m³/m²/hour at 200 Pa pressure difference; the water entry pressure is greater than 50 kPa; the Ret is between 2 and 10 m²/Pa/W; and the average pore size of the porous polymeric layer is between 0.3 and 3 micrometers.
16. (original) The cover of claim 10 or 15 wherein the surface of the laminate facing towards the biodegradable material has an oil rating of at least 1.
17. (original) The cover of claim 10 or 15 wherein the surface of the laminate facing toward the biodegradable material has an oil rating of at least 5.
18. (cancelled)
19. (new) A cover for the aerobic treatment of biodegradable material consisting essentially of a laminate of
- (a) an expanded PTFE membrane exhibiting a node and fibril structure and having an average pore size of between 0.2 and 10 μ m, and

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(b) at least one fabric selected from the group consisting of a woven, knit and nonwoven construction, said laminate having

- iv) an air permeability of between 10 and 100 m³/m²/hour at 200 Pa pressure difference,
- v) a water entry pressure greater than 20 kPa,
- vi) an Ret less than 15 m²Pa/W;

whereby said article is adapted for the aerobic treatment of biodegradable material.

20. (new) A method of treating biodegradable matter in aerobic composting wherein a cover according to claim 1 is placed over the biodegradable matter.

21. (new) A method of treating biodegradable matter in aerobic composting wherein a cover according to claim 19 is placed over the biodegradable matter.